

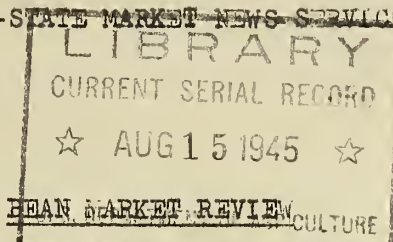
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FEDERAL-STATE MARKET NEWS SERVICE



CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF  
AGRICULTURE, MARKET  
NEWS SERVICE,  
COOPERATING  
TEL. YUKon 3111, Ext. 203

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BEAN MARKETS UNCHANGED WITH SCARCE SUPPLIES AND URGENT DEMAND  
CALIFORNIA STOCKS AT MARCH 1ST SMALLEST IN FIFTEEN YEARS

California dry bean markets held largely unchanged during the week ending March 14th with continued urgent demand but with almost no offerings, according to the Federal-State Market News Service. All varieties were in good request at full ceiling prices with distributors and governmental agencies anxious to make additional large purchases. Stocks in the principal consuming sections were reported reduced to low levels and scarcity of offerings from other bean producing areas also contributed to the keen interest in California beans. However, as in other recent weeks, most orders went unplaced. Stocks of California beans apparently were at the lowest level since 1930 and a large portion represented beans held for seeding purposes. With no important supplies left in California growers' or shippers' hands, little additional trading is anticipated until the new crop becomes available. The weighted average shipping price of the principal varieties grown in California held unchanged at \$7.06 per 100 f.o.b. country shipping points compared with \$6.64 March 15, 1944 and \$6.51 March 10, 1943.

Stocks of beans in California warehouses were reduced by shipments of 442,487 bags during February and at March 1st amounted to 851,496 bags, the lowest for any corresponding date since 1930. At March 1, 1944, stocks totaled 1,280,395 bags and during the previous ten years averaged 2,125,000 bags. Stocks at March 1st included 344,577 bags of Standard Limas, 94,028 Baby Limas, 156,110 Small Whites, 1,528 Large Whites, 42,129 Blackeyes, 87,732 Pinks, 2,313 Cranberries, 7,720 California Reds, 19,577 Red Kidneys, 27,851 Pintos, 57 Bayos, 14,669 Garbanzos and 53,205 bags of miscellaneous varieties. At the corresponding date last year, stocks were made up of 378,138 bags of Standard Limas, 196,288 Baby Limas, 242,700 Small Whites, 2,733 Large Whites, 115,522 Blackeyes, 169,220 Pinks, 13,942 Cranberries, 15,845 California Reds, 30,326 Red Kidneys, 56,715 Pintos, 988 Bayos, 30,533 Garbanzos and 27,445 bags of miscellaneous varieties.

Chiefly reflecting the smaller supplies available at the beginning of the season, distribution of California beans during the first six months of the 1944-45 crop year apparently was materially below the record movement during the corresponding period last year and the smallest since the 1939-40 marketing season. A comparison of March 1st stocks of 851,000 bags with supplies of 3,995,000 bags at the beginning of the year points to a September through February movement of 3,144,000 bags. This compares with 4,507,000 bags during the same months last season and an average disappearance of 3,139,000 bags during the previous ten years. Disappearance of each of the principal varieties was smaller than last season but greatest reductions were shown in the movement of Blackeyes, Pinks, and Small Whites. The movement of Baby Limas was only moderately smaller than a year ago. Apparent distribution during September through February this season included 852,000 bags of Standard Limas, 935,000 Baby Limas, 375,000 Small Whites, 429,000 Blackeyes, 239,000 Pinks, 22,000 Cranberries, 9,000 California Reds, 42,000 Red Kidneys, 110,000 Pintos, and 131,000 bags of miscellaneous varieties. During the same months last season, disappearance of Standard Limas was 996,000 bags, Baby Limas 968,000, Small Whites 639,000, Blackeyes 822,000, Pinks 518,000, Cranberries 31,000, California Reds 24,000, Red Kidneys 78,000, Pintos 194,000, and miscellaneous varieties 237,000 bags.

San Francisco shippers continued to quote U.S. No. 1 Blackeye beans at the ceiling of \$6.35 rail but offerings were negligible and while there was an urgent demand from the Southeastern trade, orders went unplaced. U.S. No. 1 Bayo beans were quoted at the maximum price of \$6.00 rail but with March 1st stocks reduced to less than 100 bags, no important trading was possible. March 1st stocks of Cranberry beans were below any corresponding date of record and while there was a good demand, trading was at a standstill and quotations nominal at the ceiling of \$6.75 rail. U.S. No. 1 California Red beans were quoted at the maximum price of \$6.20 rail but with scarcity of supplies restricting movement for the steady needs of the Bay Region trade. U.S. No. 1 Red Kidney beans were firm at \$6.70 rail but with no market offerings to satisfy the keen demand from distributors. March 1st stocks were the lowest in eight years and largely represented beans held for seeding purposes.

U.S. No. 1 Lima beans were quoted at the ceiling of \$8.40 rail but there were no general offerings and large orders from Middlewestern and Eastern wholesalers went unfilled. U.S. No. 1 Baby Limas were quoted at \$7.10 rail with a keen demand from Southeastern markets but with stocks at the lowest point since 1930, there was almost no new business. March 1st stocks of Pink beans were lower than any other similar date for which comparable records are available and while there was a good demand at the ceiling of \$6.40 rail, trading and movement were negligible. U.S. No. 1 Small White beans were quoted at \$6.20 rail with continued keen demand

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from canners and wholesalers but with offerings even smaller than in other recent weeks. California stocks of Pinto beans at March 1st were the smallest since 1934 and quotations were almost entirely nominal at the ceiling of \$6.30 rail basis.

The Los Angeles dry bean market held firm with scarce supplies and keen demand. Prices remained at ceiling levels but were almost entirely nominal reflecting lack of any important trading. Shippers continued to quote U.S. No. 1 Lima beans at \$8.40, U.S. No. 1 Baby Limas at \$7.10 and U.S. No. 1 Blackeye beans at \$6.35 f.o.b. country shipping points.

Other domestic bean markets also were firm with scarcity of supplies the outstanding feature. Marketings in other important producing areas were almost negligible and while there was an urgent demand from distributors, shippers reported inability to accept any large orders. Shippers continued to quote U.S. No. 1 Great Northern beans at \$6.20 f.o.b. Montana and Idaho shipping points, U.S. No. 1 Pintos at \$6.30 f.o.b. Colorado and New Mexico, and U.S. CHP Pea Beans at \$6.25 f.o.b. Michigan and \$6.30 f.o.b. New York loading stations.

#### CALIFORNIA BEAN PRICES TO GROWERS AS OF MARCH 14TH

Trading slackened further in the principal California bean producing areas as a result of small supplies remaining in first hands. Shippers continued to comb the market for additional offerings but only occasional lots were sold by growers. Most supplies left in first hands apparently were being reserved for seeding the new crop. Dealers continued to bid growers the following prices: U.S. No. 1 Limas \$8.15 per 100, U.S. No. 1 Baby Limas \$7.40, U.S. No. 1 Blackeyes \$6.27½, U.S. No. 1 Red Kidneys \$7.90, and U.S. No. 1 Small Whites, U.S. No. 1 Pintos, U.S. No. 1 Pinks and U.S. No. 1 Small Reds \$6.40 f.o.b. cars at country shipping points.

Stocks of dry beans in California warehouses,

March 1, 1945, with comparisons

Variety	March 1st : average, 1934-43: 1,000 bags	March 1, : 1944: 1,000 bags	February 1, : 1945: 1,000 bags	March 1, : 1945: 1,000 bags
Standard Lima	498	378	478	344
Baby Lima	410	196	184	94
Small White	399	243	245	156
Large White	2	3	2	2
Blackeye	275	115	64	42
Pink	313	169	135	88
Cranberry	35	14	3	2
California Red	22	16	9	8
Red Kidney	35	30	36	19
Pinto	110	57	46	28
Bayo	5	1	a/	a/
Garbanzo	6	31	16	15
Miscellaneous	15	27	76	53
Total	2,125	1,280	1,294	851

a/ Less than 1,000 bags.

FRANK L. LYONS  
In Charge  
San Francisco Office

March 15, 1945 - 9:30